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Non-payment of wage to workers of Khamadhenu Talkies, Mylapore

* 1884 *Q.*—SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was made to him by the South Indian Cinema Employees' Association on behalf of the workers of the Khamadhenu Talkies, Mylapore, Madras, in connection with the non-payment of their wages from the month of January 1954; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Khamadhenu Talkies is now under the management of the Official Receiver. Under instructions from the High Court, the workers are being paid the past arrears of wages from out of the 20 per cent of the daily collection and the wages from January 1955 onwards regularly on the due dates. In the circumstances no action was considered necessary on the representation."

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" I know, Sir, that the Proprietor of the Khamadhenu Talkies is also the Proprietor of the Kaleswara Mills. He is one of the very rich men in South India. He has purposely avoided paying wages to the workers of the Khamadhenu Talkies. It appears that he has to pay eight months' wages to the workers. May I know why the Government lagged behind in prosecuting the Proprietor of the Khamadhenu Talkies for not paying wages to the workers due to them under the provisions of the Labour Acts? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already stated in my answer that the Khamadhenu Talkies is now under the management of the Official Receiver and that we have to deal only with the Official Receiver."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" காமதேனு கேட்டதையெல்லாம் கொடுக்கும் என்று சொல்வார்கள். அப்படியிருக்க இந்தக் காமதேனு டாக்கீஸ் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு என் கூலி கொடுக்கமாட்டேன் என்கிறது என்று மந்திரி அவர்கள் தெரிவிப்பார்களா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" காமதேனு என்ற பெயரை உடையதெல்லாம் கேட்டதைக் கொடுத்துவிடும் என்று கனம் அங்கத்தினருக்குத் தோன்றுகிறதுபோலும் ! "

Lumber and Allied Industries, Limited, Pattambi.

* 1891 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government or the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, received any memorandum, dated 16th September 1954, from the concerned workers regarding the closure of Lumber and Allied Industries, Limited, Pattambi, South Malabar;

(*b*) when the factory was closed;

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(c) what are the demands of the workers; and

(d) what action the Government have taken on the representation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The factory was closed from 9th September 1954.

" (c) The demands of the workers are—

(1) Re-opening the factory and reinstatement of all workers.

(2) Enforcement of the Factories Act in the factory.

(3) Payment of lay-off wages to the workers for the period of closure.

(4) To save the female workers from the difficulties.

" (d) As the management and the workers' Union did not meet the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, in spite of several appointments fixed by him, no action was considered necessary on the representation."

Fishing boats.

* 1898 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have purchased any fishing boats from other countries to carry out experimental fishing;

(b) if so, how many and their cost; and

(c) whether any persons were requested by the Government to stay in the State to help and instruct the local fishermen on the use of modern fishing tackle?

3-10 p.m. THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The Government have not purchased fishing boats from foreign countries for conducting experimental fishing. The Food and Agricultural Organization have supplied two Danish boats. These boats which are the property of the Food and Agricultural Organization are being used by Mr. G. Illugason, Food and Agricultural Organization Fisheries Engineer, for demonstrational fishing.

" (b) Does not arise.

" (c) The Government have obtained the services of Mr. G. Illugason, Fisheries Engineer from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, for giving training to the fishermen and to the staff of the Fisheries department in improved methods of fishing."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, may I know where the fishing boats are working and whether they are working at Tellicherry? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About exactly where they are working, I would like to have notice."

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